

U.S. Patent Appl. No.: 09/935,757 Mockel et al.

II. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 2.

~~--This claims Priority is claimed priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Appl. No. 60/295,009, filed June 4, 2001, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference which claims priority to German Patent Application Nos. 10126422.4 and 10043336.7. filed May 31, 2001 and September 2, 2000, respectively.--~~

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 20 with the following paragraph.

--The new sigE gene from *C. glutamicum* which codes for the RNA polymerase sigma-E factor has been isolated.--